

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, January 10, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members:

Scott Bailey
Rachel Brewster
Diane Hoffmann, Vice Chair
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Haig Kazazian
Linda Powers
Debra Mathews, Chair
David Mosser
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell

Staff:

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF
Mindy Lehman, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF
Troy Stovall, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 1, 2021 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

Dr. Amritha Jaishankar presented the Executive Director's Report, which focused on the following:

A. Operational Updates

MSCRF/TEDCO is fully operational, and staff is working remotely. All regularly scheduled in-person meetings will continue to be held virtually or via teleconference.

B. 2021 MSCRF Annual Report - Update

Dr. Jaishankar presented the 2021 MSCRF Annual report and highlighted data presented in the 2021 MSCRF economic impact report. Digital copies of both reports are now available on the MSCRF website. ([2021 MSCRF Annual Report](#)) ([2021 MSCRF Economic Impact Report](#))

C. Meetings

MSCRF is collaborating with the ISSCR and will host a focus session at the 2022 ISSCR Annual Meeting, June 15, 2022. More info will be provided as it becomes available.

III. 2022 Legislative Session

Ms. Mindy Lehman provided a brief overview of the State budget cycle, legislative process, and shared the budget hearing schedules. The House and Senate budget hearings are scheduled for March 3-4, 2022. Ms. Lehman and Dr. Jaishankar will keep the Commission informed on new details regarding the MSCRF annual budget and any relevant bills before the Senate and House Subcommittees.

IV. 2022 Administrative updates

The Commission formed a Sub-Committee to revisit and review the mission statement, Bylaws and Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) standards to ensure alignment with the current programs and operations.

Commissioners: Dr. Debra Mathews (Chair), Ms. Diane Hoffmann (Vice Chair), and Mr. Ira Schwartz, all agreed to serve. Dr. Jaishankar will work with the Committee to draft the necessary amendments, revisions, and will share the recommendations to the full Commission for review and feedback.

V. Strategic Planning - Discussion

The Commission discussed the future direction of all MSCRF funding programs, brainstormed new mission-focused initiatives to help advance innovative stem cell science, and discussed a few strategies to address emerging challenges within the stem cell research community. Over the next several months, Dr. Jaishankar will work with the Commission to synthesize the concepts and will develop recommendations for review and feedback at a future meeting.

VII. Statement for Closing the Meeting

A motion was made and seconded that the Commission go into closed session. The motion stated the following:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION:

State Government Article §10-508(a)(1)(ii): A public body may adjourn an open session to discuss “any . . . personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals”.

The discussion will include the development and implementation of a performance and salary review system for one or more individuals employed by the Commission to staff the MSCRF.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The Commission believes that confidentiality is necessary to enable candid discussion, which may include matters pertaining to the performance of the aforementioned personnel. The Commission went into a closed session at 2:56 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.